

# #checklist

## what to do before your initial consultation

Being prepared for your initial consultation with your family lawyer and throughout the process will save you time and money. Barton Family Lawyers has prepared a pre-consultation checklist for your benefit. The checklist consists of information and documents that you should bring with you to your first appointment to ensure you are prepared and to gain the most benefit possible. It is highly recommended (but not essential) that you bring the following with you to your initial consultation (particularly in the case of divorce and financial matters):

- A list of any specific questions you have
- A copy of your marriage certificate
- Children's and former spouses names and dates of birth
- List of all assets, and their value, including real estate, cars, jewellery etc
- List of all debts, and their value, including mortgages, credit cards, loans, tax liabilities
- List of all super accounts, and the current balances, held by you and your former spouse
- Documentary evidence of the value of all assets, liabilities & super (refer to our disclosure documents checklist for assistance)
- List of assets owned by you and your former spouse at the commencement of your relationship (& evidence)
- If you suffer from any health conditions, proof of same and any related documentation
- Copies of any life insurance policies for you or your former spouse
- If you and your former spouse are divorced, copy of the Divorce Order
- List of financial contributions throughout relationship - income, inheritances, gifts (& evidence)
- List of non-financial contributions of significance including renovations, child rearing, yard work etc
- The name of your former spouse's solicitor
- Any correspondence you have received from your former spouse / their solicitor

If you do not have any or all of the above, do not put off obtaining legal advice. Our experienced family lawyers will be able to properly advise you even if you do not have the documents, so long as you are able to provide a rough estimate of the assets, liabilities, super and a history of your respective financial and non-financial contributions. It is very important that you obtain legal advice as soon as possible after separation, or if you are thinking of separating so that you are aware of your rights and entitlements. This will enable you to make smart decisions following separation and save you time & money.